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MEMOIR OF BENJAMIN PAGE, M.D.*

Born April 12, 1770; died Jan. 25, 1844.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

"On doit des égards aux vivans; on ne doit que la vérité aux morts."

THE living owe the dead, who have spent a long and highly respectable and useful life in the midst of them, a public exposition of their virtues. To friends it furnishes a precious memorial; to successors it transmits a loved image of departed excellence. It greatly serves to arouse and confirm virtuous resolutions and useful efforts, and repress and weaken the application of native endowments and acquired powers to frivolous or hurtful purposes. In the memory of the good deeds of the departed, we may learn

"How much it is a meaner thing,
To be unjustly great than honorably good."

These reflections have been suggested by the death of the late BENJAMIN PAGE, M.D., M.M.S.S., of Hallowell, Maine, who died on the 25th day of January, 1844, in the 74th year of his age.

Dr. Page, whose death excited so much interest and called up so much general feeling, belonged to a family of great respectability and medical talents. His father, Benjamin Page, served as hospital surgeon in the Revolution, and accompanied the celebrated Starke, of New Hampshire, in his early campaigns, and died at Hallowell in 1820, at the advanced age of 76. The son, following the example of the father, chose the medical profession, in which he soon acquired an enviable distinction, and practised with a constantly increasing reputation and success to the end of his long and eminent career, on the very spot where more than half a century previous he reared his medical banner and commenced the monument of his fame. His eldest son, also, follows *pari passu* in his footsteps, having taken his medical degree at Harvard in 1821, and need ask for no greater honor than that his father's mantle should fall upon his shoulders.

Dr. Page was born April 12, 1770, at Exeter, in the State of New Hampshire, and received his preparatory education at the Academy in

* This Memoir was intended for an earlier No. of the Journal, but owing to some delay in procuring the lithographic likeness which accompanies it, it has necessarily been reserved for the present time.

that place, which was then under the superintendence of Woodbridge Odlin, and which has ever been one of the most celebrated institutions in New England for the thoroughness of its instruction, and the character of its pupils. His professional studies were pursued under the direction of his father, and the celebrated Dr. Kittredge, of Andover, Mass., a physician and surgeon at that time of extensive practice and distinguished reputation. He began his professional career at Hallowell, in 1791, and here pursued it, "in season and out of season," with an uncompromising diligence and success for more than half a century.

In 1793 he went to Boston to place himself in the hands of Dr. Aspinwall, to be inoculated for the smallpox, in a hospital which had just been established in Brookline. Finding it closed on his arrival, he proceeded to Dunbarton for the same object. Disappointed here, also, and zealous and determined in the object he had in view, he repaired to his uncle's in Ware, where he and another young physician, and several of the family, submitted to smallpox inoculation, and remained in close confinement about a month; passing an ordeal which at that time was regarded as among the severest and most perilous to which youth or manhood could be subjected. To show how little apprehension was entertained, however, by the subject of this memoir, he used to relate that he and his companion passed the whole of their confinement very cheerfully, and entertained themselves agreeably with music, &c., most of the time—he playing the flute with considerable taste and execution, and his medical companion the violin.

After his recovery from smallpox, Dr. Page returned to Hallowell to resume his practice, and with the intention of opening a smallpox hospital upon a little island in what is now called Allston's lake, in Winthrop, a few miles west of the Kennebec. While matters were in progress, however, for this enterprise, he was furnished with some vaccine matter by his most intimate and attached friend, Benjamin Vaughan, Esq., who had just received it directly from the hands of Dr. Jenner, of London. He immediately made use of it, and *was the first American physician, be it known, who applied the vaccine virus to the arm of the human subject in this country.* Great was his disappointment, however, on finding the matter dry and inert, more especially as a portion of the same parcel which had been sent to Boston proved operative, and gave to a distinguished medical philosopher of the times the enviable reputation which he himself would otherwise have obtained. A few days subsequently he received another parcel from his estimable friend Dr. Jackson, of Boston, and availing himself also of fresh matter from the arm of a lady who had been vaccinated there, and who is since allied by marriage to his own family, he renewed his efforts with success; and was the means of thus early distributing this great blessing of mankind through the whole circle of his practice. The success of the vaccine superseded the necessity of a smallpox hospital, and although considerable expense was incurred in the enterprise, it was abandoned almost as soon as conceived.

In 1796 he married Abigail Cutler, of Newburyport, a lady of great personal beauty, and who to many polite accomplishments, joined the

more amiable virtues of the mind. All who know her appreciate her amiability of character. Her watchful devotion to her invalid husband during his protracted illness was the admiration of every one. "Here the spirit of the wife and mother rose superior to an ordinary nature. Night after night, without closing her eyes, did she watch with patient, vigilant, never-weary love, at the bedside of the object of her long-cherished affections. Week after week, and month after month, did she patiently devote to the languishing sufferer. With noiseless step would she pace the chamber, fearful lest the slightest foot-fall should disturb the hoped-for slumber of her idol-one. No toil, no privation, was shunned by her. Untiring and self-sacrificing in her disposition, her world was narrowed to the limits of the sick one's wants, hopes and changes. The angels of heaven must contemplate such conduct with looks of love and admiration. It is in such moments we appreciate the mother, the wife, the woman."

From the day of marriage to the death of her beloved husband—the "beloved physician"—they were never separated; and it is worthy of especial remark, that this is the first and only death in the family that has ever occurred; while there is not a house nor a family in the town and those adjoining, numbering some fifteen or twenty thousand inhabitants—save, perhaps, the more recent settlers—where there has not been some change by death or removal, except this; which has remained the same, "unchanged and unharmed," till this visitation, for upwards of forty years. Here had they happily lived together, surrounded by their children's children, fully realizing the truth of the wise man's saying, "The just walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."

A trifling incident of a domestic nature, but not too trivial, perhaps, to be noticed here, will serve to show how accidental and arbitrary often are the names of children. Each of the fond parents had a favorite family name to bestow upon the first-born, and it was decided to place them with others among some blanks and draw for a choice. Fortune decided in favor of *both*, and the names were then united, and impressed, at the baptismal font, upon the future man.

Dr. Page was a man of large stature and good form, and of a mild and benignant countenance. It beamed with a lively intelligence, and a good natural expression of mirth and cheerfulness lay over all. His head was small, his eye reflective, but clear and benignant, and his whole features expressive of the livelier affections charity and love. He was regularly handsome in youth, and even in the decline of life and under afflicted health, was a person of prepossessing and commanding appearance. He possessed the qualities of a true gentleman, suavity and benevolence of disposition, a nice perception of the proprieties of social life, and a spirit of deference to the feelings and rights of others.

In youth he was gifted with sound health and strength. While a pupil at Exeter, his father's dwelling, which was directly opposite the Academy, caught fire and was consumed. During the progress of the flames he entered one of the rooms and removed a large book-case with all its contents, and safely deposited it in the street. The next morning he in vain attempted to raise it, and could never afterwards move it from

the floor—showing the effect of personal strength when under the influence of excitement or alarm. Many years ago his father's house in Hallowell, and nearly opposite the Academy too, was set on fire by a free negress, a servant in the family, and though living at a considerable distance, he was enabled to reach it in time to give his assistance, and aid in preserving it from the flames.

Dr. Page devoted himself almost exclusively to his profession, and unambitious of elevated distinction, he enjoyed with complacency the unrivalled success which he early attained. His advantages of professional education were not equal to those of the present day, but the benefit he derived from a free access to the best private medical library in New England, that of the late Benj. Vaughan, Esq., LL.D., and an intimate personal intercourse with him, who constantly possessed the improvements in the science of medicine, more than counterbalanced the defects of early advantages. Possessing naturally a strong mind, whose powers were happily adjusted, he was able to make all sources of knowledge and means of improvement which lay in his path subservient to his use. The distinguishing trait of his mind was judgment, which conduces more than any other to distinction in the medical profession. Of a manly and ingenuous disposition, he disdained to practise any of the arts of quackery. He never made any efforts to acquire the talent to display his knowledge for the purpose of obtaining the reputation of a learned man, but was content to evince, on all occasions, an ability equal to the exigency of his situation. His resources were shown by what he could or did do, rather than what he could or did say. Hence his professional distinction was not so extensively known or so generally acknowledged as it otherwise would have been. He was a happy exemplification of the Latin motto, "*esse quam videri malim.*" I should wish to be, rather than to seem.

It is no slight evidence in favor of his character as a physician, that he was able to sustain his reputation in competition with junior members of the profession, who had been enriched by all the improvements and helps of the discoveries and advantages of medical science within the last fifty years. In no other science have equal improvements been made within the same period. The character of his practice was cautious and considerate, in opposition to adventurous and precipitate, the ripened fruits of much reading, large experience, deep thinking, and uncommon accuracy of judgment. Hence most of those who employed him as a physician had profound confidence in his medical skill. His patients generally thought that under his care they were sure of receiving all the aid which a physician could administer. His deportment in the sick chamber was bland, tender, soothing, sympathetic, delicate and winning. When he conquered the disease, he usually gained the heart. He sacredly observed the principle of concealing in his own bosom whatever he might witness in his patients, or the family where they were, that could by communication to others possibly prove injurious to them. This is an indispensable and invaluable quality in a physician; too little appreciated—too often wanting. It was the bright jewel of his character—the crowning virtue of his life.

Dr. Page's great fort as a physician was the management of *fevers and chronic diseases*. In his treatment of *surgical diseases* he was also particularly successful. He made no attempt to excel in operative surgery, though there are few of the minor operations which in the course of his long practice, he had not repeatedly and successfully performed. His chief end and aim was to restore wounded and lost parts, and to avoid operations when practicable; and there are many now living who owe to him the preservation of "life and limb," which might have been mutilated or destroyed in more adventurous or less skilful hands.

He never sought for extraordinary cases to herald his skill, being satisfied with the triumph of the moment, and relying on the *semper paratus* which should always attach to the physician and surgeon—never losing sight of the truth conveyed in the beautiful thought of Milton,

—to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the true wisdom.

In the management of *dislocations and fractures* he was particularly expert and invariably successful. His treatment of *consumption* differed from most other practitioners, and was cordial and restorative instead of depleting and debilitating; and he was happy to find, towards the close of his life, that his system of practice was beginning to be more generally appreciated, and adopted with the happiest results. The bugbear *inflammation*, which in these northern latitudes leads to such deplorable and fatal mischief, in the indiscriminate use of calomel and the lancet, never haunted him in his practice. He often cautioned his pupils against their baneful effects, and thought it better for young practitioners to avoid them altogether, till from riper years and observation they had learned to estimate their importance, and successfully apply them to practice. "Better," he would say, "never used, than universally abused." Verily their name is legion, and their work is death—and he enforced his counsel in his earlier and later years, by two memorable examples, Presidents Washington and Harrison, both of whom fell melancholy victims to a false and irrational system of practice, and the deplorable errors of the schools. *Falsus principia, falsus medicina.*

Dr. Page was unsurpassed, also, if not unequalled, in the success of his obstetric practice. How important he regarded, and how successfully he practised it, appears from the fact that he attended upwards of *three thousand females in their confinement, without the loss of a single life from the first year of his practice!* This is almost miraculous, and may challenge the professional records of Europe or America for anything to compare with it. The causes of this success may be traced chiefly to his uncommon tact and skill, but above all to his intuitive knowledge of disease, his profound and unerring judgment, and the unbounded confidence everywhere and at all times, and in all emergencies, reposed in him; and lastly, to the preparatory measures, and the soothing regimen which he usually advised those who submitted to his charge. He rarely invoked instrumental aid, or made use of those popular and energetic means so common in the hands of others. In this branch

of his profession particularly, he left all his competitors behind him, and ever mindful of the golden maxim, especially applicable to obstetric practice, *Festinare nocet, nocet et cunctatio sepe*, he triumphed in the art, and met with unparalleled good fortune and universal success.

His treatment of juvenile cases was signally successful. This is to be ascribed to his superior judgment.

In his treatment of fevers, especially the frightful plague or spotted fever of 1812-14, he justly acquired much celebrity. Within the sphere of his practice it was rendered well nigh harmless, and the remembrance of his medical offices to many now living will be a source of grateful endearment and delightful satisfaction.

The epidemic spotted fever made its appearance in 1810, and till 1816 prevailed at Hallowell and its vicinity with great severity. It fell to the lot of Dr. Page to devote a large portion of his attention to the sick during the prevalence of this epidemic. Several thousand cases fell under his observation; and he is entitled, says the distinguished author and practitioner, Dr. Thacher, to much honor, and to the gratitude of the public, for his correct observations, his indefatigable industry and his very judicious mode of treatment, by which the disease was divested in a great measure of its malignity and fatal tendency.

The late accomplished and much lamented Dr Robbins, in alluding to this epidemic in an early No. of this Journal, says of his beloved and distinguished preceptor, Dr. Page, "his talents, judgment and practical skill, would alone redeem the professional character of his State. We have never," says he, "in any country met with a medical practitioner whose views are more liberal or just, or in whose hands we should so willingly entrust ourselves in a dangerous disease. His unexampled success in treating the *spotted fever* which prevailed in 1814, whilst so many were falling victims to the disease in the neighboring towns, and many cases which have come to our knowledge of his successful management of pulmonary inflammation, dropsies, curvatures of the spine, and other obstinate chronic affections, would, if given to the world as they ought to be, constitute a basis of lasting fame, and be an ample herald of his sound practical judgment, and extensive information on professional subjects."

Dr. Page, however, was never ambitious of becoming a medical author. His time and attention were too exclusively devoted to practice, and had he desired he could scarcely have found time, up to the close of his active and practically useful life, to have distinguished himself as a writer. Yet some of his publications do him great credit, and his monographs upon the *Spotted Fever* and *Scarlatina* are not without their value. The admirable history of their symptoms, together with the details of successful treatment, deserves all the praise of originality, having been written entirely from personal observation. It is not claiming too much for them to say, that they contributed greatly to reform the practice in these hitherto fearful and fatal maladies, and to divest them of much of the terror and fatality which in New England, as elsewhere, has ever attended them. The opinions of a skilful and discerning prac-

tioner of *fifty years experience*, it has been well said, are entitled to uncommon regard.

Dr. Page's familiarity with the classics was by no means limited. He had a good knowledge of the ancient languages, and especially the Latin, so important to the physician; and he early acquired a partial knowledge of the French also, which on more than one occasion he was enabled to turn to good account. Prince Talleyrand, "fifty years since," while on a visit to Maine, was the guest of his next-door neighbor and friend, and availed himself of his medical advice; and more recently Count Ney, the son of Marshal Ney, while making a flying tour through the State, was arrested by disease, and became the subject of his skill. The royal patient was so well pleased and satisfied with his medical adviser, that he called upon him directly after his recovery from a dangerous illness, to express his gratitude and thanks, and before leaving town addressed a polite note to him in French, enclosing within it five times the amount of his fee. These may seem trifling circumstances to many, but they were a pleasing source of gratification to the deceased, and show moreover how universally he was estimated and beloved.

He was often called upon to visit patients in distant towns, and to prescribe for persons in foreign States, and he had the pleasure of almost invariably learning from them that his counsel was generally approved by the profession, and his prescription beneficial to the sick. Indeed, there is hardly a town or village within a circuit of thirty miles (and there are many) to which he was not called to attend the sick, and from which some one or more persons have not consulted him for his medical advice. For many years he controlled the best practice in the several towns of Hallowell, Augusta and Gardiner, and there are many families in each who continued to avail themselves of his medical services and advice as long as he was able to render them. During the epidemic *spotted fever* he was constantly written to by his medical brethren from all quarters, soliciting his opinion in regard to the epidemic, and his mode of treatment. He never withheld an answer, but disclosed frankly and freely all he knew upon the subject—all of his own discoveries and the practice he found most useful, and the remedies most successful in controlling the disease. In his medical principles he was strictly eclectic and rational. He was a true "minister and interpreter of nature," following no particular school or sect, but drew what he esteemed to be good and profitable from all sources, and applied his knowledge, without regard to particular or prevailing theories, to the treatment of disease. In consultation he was remarkably courteous and prudent. As was said of Hampden, on another occasion, he presented that rare affability and temper and a seeming humility and submission of judgment, as if he brought no opinion of his own with him, but a desire of information and instruction. Yet he had so easy a way of interrogating, and under cover or doubts of insinuating his objections, that he infused his own opinions into those from whom he pretended to learn and receive them. Whenever his opinions were fixed and he could not comply, he always left the impression and character of an ingenuous physician and a conscientious

man. He parted from his compeers with the benediction of Horace, "Farewell, and be happy. If you know any precepts better than these, be so candid as to communicate them—if not, partake of these with me."

"If a better system's thine,
Impart it freely, or make use of mine."

"In truth, he seemed, above most others, to have been gifted with the true genius of the medical art—an instinctive, unerring sagacity in detecting the nature of the Protean forms of disease, and applying the appropriate remedy. Frank and gentle and unassuming in his manners and deportment, he displayed the 'power of the art without the show,' and at all times and on every occasion manifested the calm energy and moral courage, and self-devotion, so eminently characteristic of his noble profession."

Dr. Page was very communicative to his pupils, to whom he was ever kind and instructive. Some of them have become quite distinguished—and there are those who have carried his treasured precepts to the South and to the West, and to the West Indies; and adopting his gentle manners, his temperate habits and medical code of practice, have invariably found friends and met with professional success.

Upon such a physician the Board of Bowdoin College conferred the honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine.

The following comprises a list of his writings and publications, as re-collected by the writer of this memoir. 1. An Account of the Malignant Fevers at Hallowell, in the summer and autumn of 1798-99. 2. Observations on Epidemic Dysentery as it appeared in 1800. 3. Typhus Fever in 1807. 4. Memoir upon the Spotted or Petechial Fever of New England, 1816. 5. Case of Poison by Arsenic, successfully treated, 1820. 6. Practical Observations on the Treatment of Scarlatina, 1833.

Dr. Page was for many years a member and Counsellor of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He regarded the institution as of great consequence to the profession, and spoke of his connection with it with infinite satisfaction, and seemed to have its interests and welfare continually at heart. He was a regular subscriber, and occasionally a contributor, to the New England and Boston Medical Journal, from its first series, and regularly received and perused its interesting numbers for upwards of 30 years. He had them carefully preserved and bound, and they comprised a portion of his medical library which he left to his eldest son in Louisiana, and are, perhaps, the only complete and perfect copy in the State. He was early initiated into the "ancient and honorable Fraternity of Masons," of which he was a zealous and faithful member, and the highest degrees of the order were conferred upon him, and worn with characteristic modesty worthy of himself and the charitable institution to which he belonged.

Throughout the whole period of his long, laborious and useful life, he played the part of the "good Samaritan." He was unostentatious in his habits and simple in his style of living and dress, and so averse to no-

tority and display, that he often manifested a shrinking and retiring modesty in society that was truly delicate and feminine. His temper was uniformly serene, and his patience christian-like and enduring. There was no duplicity—no double-dealing—no faithlessness in his trust. Whatever he promised, he executed in good faith. His character, in truth, was one of the brightest emanations of a medical philosopher and a christian philanthropist. He ever lived within his means, and never embarrassed himself or his family with speculative wants. He was especially liberal and provident to those dependent upon him, and nothing that was wished for or demanded by them was ever withheld. He was ever ready to make all sacrifices for the happiness of his children, to whom he was so dear. He was the pride of their affections, the long-cherished idol of their hearts. He was unambitious of worldly riches, knowing that happiness did not consist in accumulated wealth, but in temperance and contentment of heart, and a cheerful reliance upon the providence of God. He was extremely prompt and punctual in his professional visits, and considerate in his charges; and there are recorded upon his books the names of many persons and families whom he regularly attended, without the slightest compensation, for a period of thirty or forty years. There were thousands to whom he gave both advice and medicine without charge. With the same amount of practice and the customary fees, for the same period of time in New York or Boston, he would have realized as great an income as Sir Astley Cooper, and left to his family and children a princely estate. But the poor he always had with him, and he never turned a deaf ear to their wants, or sent them empty away.

As a citizen his character deserves high commendation. In all things which related to government and religion he exhibited always a tolerant and charitable spirit. The peace, harmony, welfare and happiness of the community were objects in his judgment of great importance and constant pursuit. The rich and the poor, the high and the low, equally received his regards and his services. He was not only the sick man's doctor, but the sick man's friend. He was equally distinguished by compassionate feeling, and sedulous attention, and exhibited the same sympathy and kindness, and the same watchful solicitude by night and by day, and where he had no expectation or hope of pecuniary reward. No wonder, then, that the endearing phrase of "beloved physician" should have been universally applied to him. "I never," said a distinguished divine, in discoursing upon his memory, "I never happened to hear that he had an enemy. So far as I have known him, and that for *fifty years*, he has been marked for correctness of morals, and regularity of life; and I suppose I express the views of all who hear me, when I say, his course was 'without rebuke.'"

With party politics he had nothing to do. In his principles established, in his opinions persuaded, modest and tolerant, you would always find him in the path of duty and on the side of order and rectitude. Ever ready to concede honest intentions to others, he maintained his own opinions with firmness; while he endeavored, both by precept and example, to allay party feelings, and to teach his fellow citizens to regard them-

selves as members of the same great family. In his professional visits he never kindled the fire of political or religious agitation and discord, nor infused into his prescriptions the ingredients of licentiousness, infidelity and insubordination to the laws of God or man.

No citizen has greater power of doing mischief in society than a physician. His character as a man, therefore, should have great influence upon the community in determining the measure of patronage they should give him in his practice.

Such a man as Dr. Page could not be other than he was, the best of husbands, fathers, brothers and friends. What he was as a husband, the grief and wounded heart of his surviving partner in life, professor of the same faith, are a testimonial. As a father, such was his tenderness and solicitude, that he could not but conciliate the endeared affection of his children, which will cause this stroke of their God, in their bereavement, to be felt deeply and felt long.

To crown all his other excellences, in the latter part of his life he professed the faith and exhibited the character of a Christian. His religion partook of his natural temperament of mind. It was unpretending and noiseless, but seen and felt. It was an humble and sole reliance upon the mercy of God through Jesus Christ. It was an anchor to his soul in the storm of death.

And what life or death can be happier than that of a pious father of a family, who having filled all the relations of life with honorable and christian fidelity, and conscientiously discharged his duty to his Creator, to himself, and his family, "tenderly affectionate and tenderly beloved," and who, leaving an honorable name behind him, and his family without a stain, dies in the faith of a christian, and with an abiding hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave!

As he commenced his professional career with that terrible scourge the smallpox, so his life, by a singular fatality, was terminated some fifty years after, in consequence of a personal infection of this loathsome disease. Nearly or quite two years before his death, the varioloid disease was brought to Hallowell, and either by accident or design, or both, communicated to several of its inhabitants. A young physician—a former protégé of the deceased, and whose ingratitude was a poor return for the many kindnesses he had received—to escape the danger and odium of having first communicated the disease by inoculation, reported that he had received the matter from Dr. P. Fortunately, however, for the purity of his reputation, which was to pass unsullied to his grave, two other physicians in town had obtained matter from him, just then received fresh from a friend in Boston, which he generously shared with them, and both parcels proved pure and efficacious; while his "ungrateful friend" declined accepting any, or made use of that which was derived from another source. Certain it was he communicated the smallpox or varioloid by inoculation, and two young and destitute females soon after died of the disease. As he had sown, so did he reap. Dr. Page was summoned to their death-bed to pronounce upon the character of the malady, and to warn his protégé and the public of the nature of the plague thus intro-

duced. The poison had been communicated and the plague-spot could not be healed. The alarm became general, and the sudden death of the two young females served to awaken public sympathy and public fear. A hospital was immediately provided in the suburbs of the town, and all the cases as they occurred sent directly thither, under the sole care and superintendence of Dr. Page, who alone was chosen by the Town Council to manage the disease. Some thirty-five or forty cases were admitted, all of which, by his unwearied attention and skill, which never slumbered nor slept, passed harmlessly through the disease. Not a death occurred. Here, too, a protecting Providence seemed to attend him. His friends all wondered at the result, and his triumph over detraction and disease was not less gratifying to himself and family than to the public generally, and the afflicted inmates who had safely passed the ordeal of a dangerous and most afflictive malady.

But what proved harmless to the patient, was in the end fatal to the "friend and physician." His zeal and assiduity were too much for his constitution and his years. His long and frequent exposure to the small-pox infection disordered and weakened his system, and enabled an old enemy—the gout—to triumph over his usually robust health, and terminate his life. His illness was long and painful, and his bodily frame wasted; but his mind held out to the last pulse of life. His disease, or rather complication of diseases, was such as to forbid the hope of recovery—but all was peace within.

His last professional visit was made about a year previous to his decease; though he prescribed for patients at various times, and the prescription he wrote the week before his death, though looking then hourly for the event, was marked with all the perspicuity and plainness of his better days. In his greatest paroxysms of distress no murmur was known to escape his lips, though he often longed for his departure. On the evening preceding his death, when the symptoms betokened the coming dissolution, and called forth the tears and groans of friends gathered at his bed-side, it was impressive to hear him say, "*Why grieve immoderately? all will be well!*" And we trust all is well.

After prayers were offered up for his quiet passage through the dark valley, with great self-possession he prayed audibly himself. As he lived, so he died—with

— "All that should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends."

"Why weep we then for him, who, having won
The bound of man's appointed years, at last,
Life's blessings all enjoyed, life's labors done,
Serenely to his final rest has passed;
While the soft memory of his virtues yet
Lingers like twilight hues, when the bright sun is set."

POISONING BY OXALIC ACID.

By James Ogilvy, M.D., Coventry.

On the 3rd of August last, I was called suddenly to visit Mrs. S——, a widow, aged 43, who was represented to be dangerously ill. I lost no

time, and the place being near at hand, I was there without delay. I found the patient sitting in her bedroom, dressed, but quite dead. Mr. Bury, who was sent for at the same time, was also present. It appeared that about three hours before, she had ate a hearty dinner, and had been occupied afterwards, till a short time before her death, in reading. Her sister was with her all the time, and also accompanied her to her bedroom, when she made no complaint. Her sister then left the bedroom for a few minutes, not exceeding four, and on her return found her faint and vomiting. She did not appear to suffer any pain, and though at the last gasp, was quite collected.

On inquiry as to the cause of death, the friends, from the hints which she had occasionally dropped, suspected she had poisoned herself; but from there being no smell of prussic acid about her mouth, or among what she had vomited, I was more inclined, judging from previous symptoms, to suppose that a rupture of the heart, or some of the neighboring vessels, had occurred. A tumbler stood on the table, which, in the hurry, was used to hold some brandy and water, but her sister-in-law stated, that on taking it up at first it was quite clean and dry.

About a month before, I was consulted on her case by her brother, at whose house she was residing, and found her laboring under great depression of spirits, and most gloomy forebodings as to future prospects. Her husband had lately died in London, and though she was surrounded by kind friends, and in easy circumstances, still, to her imagination, want and poverty were always impending. Strange to say, however, her appetite was always good, even voraciously so. In addition to the above, she complained of much palpitation. The impulse of the heart was felt and heard over a considerable space, the pulse strong, full, and regular, leading me to suppose that hypertrophy of the left side of the heart existed. She experienced relief from the treatment adopted, but still without any abatement of her mental distress.

A coroner's inquest having been ordered, the body was examined next day, in presence of Mr. Bury, Mr. Tyerman, and myself. The body was emaciated; the lower part of the chest much contracted, evidently the effects of tight lacing. Considerable lividity was observed on the sides and back. The mouth and tongue had a bleached appearance, but not corroded. The brain was healthy, perhaps rather vascular. The heart was slightly enlarged, without perceptible thickening of the walls, but was more heavy than usual—a condition which agrees with Dr. Clendinning's remark, that hypertrophy might be found to exist by having recourse to the balance, though it might not be obvious to the eye. There was no rupture of the heart, or any vessel connected with it, and no disease of any of the valves. Both ventricles were full of black uncoagulated blood. On opening the abdomen, we found the liver much enlarged, but were most struck with the appearance of the stomach, which was in a state of considerable decomposition. The coats were soft and friable, indeed, so easily torn were they, that when ligatures were applied to each orifice and the viscus removed, the weight of the contents produced laceration. The neighboring intestines, and the por-

tion of the left lobe of the liver in contact with the stomach, were similarly disorganized, as if the contents of that organ had transuded and affected them. The stomach was half full of a dark gelatinous-looking mass, the taste of which was intensely acid. On washing the stomach, the coats were found pale, the blood-vessels ramifying on the surface being dark, and filled with coagulated blood, thick, like extract. The cardiac orifice, and lower portion of the œsophagus, appeared as if boiled, the mucous coat being white and easily detached.

On subjecting a clear solution of the contents of the stomach to analysis, we found—1. That it reddened litmus-paper. 2. A solution of nitrate of silver threw down a dense white precipitate, which was re-dissolved by the addition of nitric acid. 3. Lime-water threw down a white precipitate, which was also re-dissolved by nitric acid. 4. A solution of sulphate of copper produced a greenish-white precipitate.

Judging from the appearances of the stomach, and from the results obtained by the tests, no doubt remained on our minds that death was occasioned by swallowing a solution of oxalic acid, in which opinion the jury coincided. Some days after, our opinion as to the cause of death was confirmed, by the discovery, in the deceased's bedroom, of about an ounce and a half of oxalic acid loosely wrapped in a piece of newspaper, and which, from its crushed appearance, had probably been carried in her pocket for some time previously. On testing this, and comparing it with oxalic acid, they were found to agree in every respect.

The remarkable circumstance connected with the foregoing case, was the rapidly fatal nature of it. A large quantity of the poison, probably one or two ounces, must have been taken, which had speedily induced vomiting, prostration of strength, collapse and death. There can be no doubt, from the surveillance which was kept over the patient, that the poison, even supposing it had been previously dissolved and kept ready, had been swallowed during the few minutes the sister was absent from the bedroom; consequently, it appears that death occurred within three minutes after the poison had entered the stomach. I have never before met with, or heard of, any well authenticated case of the same nature so rapidly fatal. Dr. Christison mentions one where death occurred about half an hour after two ounces of the acid had been taken, and another, which was considered remarkable, where only ten minutes elapsed.—*London Lancet.*

SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Diagnosis of Pleurisy.—The existence and characters of bronchial respiration in pleuritic effusions have attracted considerable attention in France. That the sound of respiration is not obliterated in pleurisy has been maintained by M. Hirtz, Andral, Cruveilhier, and many others. M. Monneret has given his experience on this subject. The sound, he says, in most cases, resembles that of expiration as heard under the clavicles in different stages of pulmonary phthisis. Usually, the inspiratory sound is

scarcely appreciable, and the abnormal sound accompanies expiration only. When both inspiration and expiration are heard, the latter is always the most intense. Though, in many cases, the "soufflet" of pleurisy differs from that of pneumonia, it presents shades, and cannot be distinguished by its "timbre" alone. It is usually heard over the inferior angle of the scapula and its lower third, or even as high as the spine of the scapula, and along its inner border. Wherever the tubular souffle of pleurisy is heard, ægophony (not bronchophony) is also present, [?] and dulness on percussion extends as high as the spine of the scapula. Five cases are given, corroborating the above statements, and in which the true symptoms and signs of pneumonia were absent, and the treatment such as would not have proved sufficient in pneumonia.

M. Netter also states that he has found bronchial respiration to be a frequent phenomenon in pleurisy, and points out the intimate connection between ægophony and the pleuritic "souffle," the latter being as constant as the former. In every case in which ægophony was present, the bronchial murmur accompanied expiration, and was sometimes feeble, of short duration, and metallic in its character. The latter circumstance he considers important, as explaining the nature of ægophony. He rejects Laennec's explanation of this phenomenon, which he states he has met with when the fluid effused was considerable. He, in fact, believes it to be dependent on the bronchial murmur, and affirms that the former is the more trembling and stuttering in its character, in proportion as the latter is stronger.—*Brit. and Foreign Med. Review.*

Contractility and Retraction of Fibro-Cellular Tissue.—M. Gerdy relates the following case:—A workman, 34 years old, received on the upper part of the anterior surface of the fore-arm, a wound of ten *centimetres* in length; a bandage with diachylon having been applied, an erysipelatous inflammation of the skin took place between the wound and the elbow. The borders of the wound were swollen, gaping, and the tendon of the anterior radial muscle was uncovered; the movements of the hand were difficult. By degrees the wound healed, a cicatrix forming close to its upper corner. About three weeks after the wound was received, attention was attracted by the inability of the patient to move the wrist and fingers. The fore-arm was bent at the elbow-articulation, the hand was also bent towards the fore-arm, and the four fingers towards the hand. On an attempt to stretch the fingers, the aponeurosis was seen, and felt strongly strained under the skin from the elbow-articulation to the palm of the hand; and under the upper part of the wound was a firm surface, closely cemented as well with the wound itself as with the aponeurosis. In moving the arm this surface did not slide over the aponeurosis; it was clear that an indurated part of the cicatrix had grown in close connection with the aponeurosis. M. Gerdy stretched the fingers and the hand by degrees, occasioning each time a distinct crepitation; at a later period, the fingers and hand could be completely stretched, and finally also the fore-arm.

The retraction of the hand and fingers was not the result of the action of the muscles, for they were always soft, loose, flexible, and without any

pain whatever. M. Gerdy considered the above-mentioned symptoms to be merely the result of retraction of the aponeurosis of the fore-arm, of the palmar fascia of the cellular tissue under the wound, and of the cicatrix itself.—*Archives Generales.*

Remarkable Case of Accidental Amputation of the Arm.—A baker's boy, a youth of about 20 years of age, was engaged in raising some sacks of corn by a windlass. For the sake of a frolic he seized hold of the chain, wishing to be raised to the upper part of the granary; but he was drawn so high that his head came against that portion of the roof through which the chain passed. Not being able to hold by the chain, he fell with his arms stretched out. In falling, his left arm came in contact with the top of a door below, which was standing open; and the force was such, that the arm, which was bare, was completely separated, at about a hand's breadth, from the shoulder-joint. His body fell on one side of the door, and his arm on the other. Under this extraordinary amputation the arm appeared as if it had been chopped off by an axe; the bone and muscles were as evenly separated as if they had been divided by a blunt knife, and the end of the bone was not at all splintered, a few nervous filaments only hanging from the wound. The fall of the patient must have been broken by his arm coming thus in contact with the edge of the door; for the only injuries to his person were a few contusions and abrasions about the skin of the face. He was, however, at first, speechless and insensible, but he recovered his speech and consciousness in a few days. The wound bled but little; it was dressed, and the brachial artery was tied, to guard against accidental hemorrhage; the nervous filaments were cut off, but neither the muscles nor the bone required the use of a knife or a saw. Fever with delirium followed. A strict antiphlogistic regimen was adopted, and ice was applied to the head. This treatment was attended with benefit. The wound of the arm, which was at first discolored, assumed a good appearance; healthy suppuration came on, and the patient, after about two months, was perfectly restored. The stump cicatrized well, and the bone was completely covered with skin.—*Casper's Wochenschrift, and Medical Gazette.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 1, 1845.

Mesmeric Surgery in Maine.—A gentleman, for whom we have the highest sentiments of personal respect, sent us the following account of a surgical operation, performed while the patient was under that strange kind of influence which is called mesmeric. It first appeared in the Kennebec Journal, and, contrary to our custom, it has been transferred from a popular newspaper to this Journal, to show that we are willing to give the advocates of animal magnetism an opportunity to present their facts, if they have any, to the world. The note that accompanied the report was pre-

faced thus: "Never having seen any marked experiments in mesmerism, I confess but little knowledge on the subject, but cannot doubt that every well-authenticated fact is worth preserving. I know all the gentlemen who sign this certificate, by reputation, and several of them personally. They are among the first in your profession in Maine. Dr. Deane I have known these twenty years. He is a skilful physician and successful practitioner."

One of the surprising things of the day is, that no such phenomena are ever witnessed in Boston, as are very common to the eyes of believers in many other places. Surely, there is talent enough in our city, and enterprise too, sufficient to investigate subjects that are gravely brought under the notice of our scientific neighbors. Mesmerism, however, in some shape or other, is not unknown among us. Signs and transparencies may be seen in obscure parts of this city, having on them, in large letters, *Mesmeric Examinations—Diseases examined by a Clairvoyant here—All Diseases cured by Mesmerism here, &c.* It must strike a stranger singularly, in traversing the crooked streets of this compact metropolis, to see these contrivances for getting a penny. The business is in low hands, since a patient may have any sort of revelation, from a theft to the color of his kidneys, just according to his capacity for being gulled and the thickness of his wallet. There is not a man in Boston or its vicinity, of strong powers of mind, of acknowledged scientific acquirements, and of a commanding character in society, in any way identified with the hue and cry about animal magnetism. Why is it so? We would take the liberty to inquire—how is it in other cities? Are the first class of intellects employed in the service of this modern wonder? We have witnessed so much imposition, and have so repeatedly had opportunities for detecting the shallowness and trickery of male and female experimenters, and, lastly, found that excited imaginations so often covered up truth and thrust forward positive falsehood, that we feel justified in maintaining the position that we have assumed from the beginning:—viz., that proof is still wanting to establish the least of the claims of animal magnetism, in the cause now before the tribunal of men of science.

But to the article in question. A Miss Cromett, in Maine, it seems, had a diseased breast. At a "critical juncture," says the paper, "some friends advised and aided her in procuring the services of Dr. Josiah Deane, of Bangor, an experienced and successful operator in mesmerism. He came, remained five days, and favorably succeeded in magnetically subduing the patient. Untoward circumstances at this time forbade the operation, and a short delay was recommended for the removal of local inflammation.

"After an interval of ten days, the local disease beginning to assume a more inauspicious aspect, Dr. Deane was again called in on June 28th, but owing to some adventitious illness, prudential considerations recommended a delay until July 3d at 10, A. M., when the tumor, involving the whole of the right breast was removed by Dr. H. H. Hill, of this village, in presence of Dr. Hubbard, of Hallowell, Drs. Snell, Briggs, Myrick and Nichols, of this place, Rev. Mr. Burgess of the Episcopal church, J. L. Child, Esq., Counsellor at Law, Mrs. Smith, and some other ladies.

"The urgent solicitation of the patient prevailed over the concealment previously determined on, and she was apprised on the day previous, of the hour appointed for the operation. Notwithstanding her fancied forti-

tude forsook her, so irresistible was the power of magnetism, that in about ten minutes she was beyond the control of fear, and secure from the influence of pain. The operation was performed by two incisions, measuring on the line of their curvature, twelve inches each, the whole enlarged gland removed (weighing two and a half pounds), the arteries secured, the wound carefully examined, the surfaces brought into apposition and partly secured by sutures, without a motion, a groan or sigh, or even the most remote indication of pain or sensibility. It would have appeared to an observer "that life itself was wanting there," had not respiration given assurance the spirit had not departed.

At this period, when a few more stitches would have completed the whole operation, the mesmerizer unintentionally permitted his attention to be withdrawn from the patient, when she awoke to the consciousness of having passed an ordeal without a pang, which without the oblivion of magnetism, would have severely tried the fortitude of the firmest, and have convulsed, with the keenest agony, every fibre that had been reposing in softest slumber. The acute sensibility to pain betrayed by the introduction of the remaining stitches, would, I think, convey conviction to the mind of the most obdurate disbeliever that such a result could be produced by no art of legerdemain, nor by any other known agent. The circulation was slightly accelerated, the respiration natural, and an entire freedom from the faintness, exhaustion, and prostration, so often attendant upon severe corporeal suffering."

We have not room for the certificates which follow.

Exit of a Fœtal Bone through the Abdomen.—A lady in Boston, now 56 years of age, who was married at 19, has had twelve children, and miscarried eight times (once with twins, twenty-eight years ago, when eight months advanced in pregnancy), was suddenly seized with what was called a fit (but no particulars of a definite character are given), and on recovering from it a small tumor was noticeable on the right side of the abdomen, just below the umbilicus. It very gradually enlarged, and from that period till within a few weeks, it was called an abdominal hernia, for which she has worn a truss several years in succession. A few days since, the tumor being quite indolent and having remained unchanged in appearance or sensation, symptoms of inflammation were manifested. The husband, understanding the principles of treatment in the incipient stages, at once resorted to poultices. Gradually, one point on the spherical surface began to soften, and finally burst open. Besides the escape of pus, a small, hard piece of bone, strongly resembling a fetal rib, made its exit. Immediately, there was subsidence of the tumefaction; the discharge, not copious at first, diminished in quantity, and from present appearances there will be a speedy restoration.

The idea has been suggested, that the fœtus was lodged in the Fallopian tube of that side, and that the parts were principally removed from the system by the absorbents, which explains the reason why the functions of the procreative apparatus were not essentially deranged.

Canabis Indica.—In order that practitioners of the city may have every opportunity of giving this new medicine a fair trial in neuralgia, we have

left some of the extract with a number of druggists, who have prepared a tincture of it. The tincture may be found at Mr. Burnett's, Tremont Row; White's, opposite the head of Winter St.; Brewer, Stevens, Cushing & Co.'s, 91 Washington St., and at many other apothecaries. Country gentlemen who prefer to make the tincture themselves, will be furnished with the extract gratuitously, at the Journal office. The extract, heretofore introduced into Boston, from London, strongly resembles naphtha; whereas that sent to Dr. Wigglesworth, from Dr. O'Shaughnessy, direct from Calcutta, where it is alone prepared, very much resembles cake-opium. We are inclined to the opinion that the specimen now at the disposal of the profession, is a genuine, unadulterated article, and should have an immediate and fair trial. Rheumatism and neuralgia, with the approach of autumnal winds, will show their potency; therefore let the cannabis be recollected.

Private Medical School, Manchester, N. H.—After the medical lectures are finished, many gentlemen who have been in attendance, will be seeking the private instruction and guidance of physicians who have facilities for students. The Drs. Crosby, brothers, established in the beautiful and thrifty manufacturing town of Manchester, N. H., accessible by railroad in two directions, are recommended to such. They are men of sterling qualifications, of high professional reputation, and well provided with all those appurtenances which constitute a desirable place for pursuing the study of medicine profitably. The expenses of the school must be something less than in a city, and yet its proximity to the hospitals of this metropolis, would enable pupils to skip down in the cars on operating days, if thought advisable, and back again, without being missed in the village.

Transylvania Medical School.—The notice of the death of Professor Richardson, of Kentucky, will be found in its appropriate place. No interruption, we understand, in the course of Lectures, at the approaching session of the Medical School, will be caused by this melancholy event, as arrangements have been made for the delivery of a full course of lectures upon Professor R.'s department, by Professor Mitchell, whose ability to do justice to it is fully known and appreciated.

The following notice respecting the permanent appointment of a successor to Prof. R. has been published by the chairman of the Board of Trustees, M. C. Johnson, Esq.

"The Chair of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, is at present vacant; and with a view to fill it in the best possible manner, applications for the place are invited from the members of the medical profession. Communications on the subject must be forwarded to the Dean of the Medical Faculty prior to the 30th day of January next, when the appointment will be made. It will be required, in conformity with a resolution of the Board of Trustees, that the person selected shall make Lexington his permanent residence.

"The name of no one but the successful candidate will be made public."

Cause of the Continued Prevalence and Fatality of Smallpox.—Dr. Stark has collected a series of facts, which he publishes in the *Edinburgh Journal*, in a statistical form. These facts are believed by the author to be

sufficient to support the conclusion—"That the existing prevalence and mortality of smallpox is not owing to any failure in the protective powers of the vaccine virus, nor to its wearing out of the system after a certain number of years, but to the neglect of vaccination altogether; and that vaccination affords a greater protection from a fatal termination, should the individual be subsequently attacked with smallpox, than if he had passed through either the natural or inoculated smallpox. It is highly desirable that attention should be paid to the facts stated, and to the conclusions drawn from them. From ignorance of these facts, many eminent physicians have, by their writings, done harm, by inducing doubts as to the protective powers of the vaccine virus; and as the public at large are apt to discard altogether what they see learned men regard as only a temporary or doubtful preservative, perhaps no inconsiderable number of the cases of neglect of vaccination may be attributed to their writings being propagated among the public."

Medical Miscellany.—A letter from Tampico says there is a good deal of sickness there.—By a decree of the Portuguese government, all ports north of Cape Hatteras are declared to be habitually clean!—A State Medical Convention has been called in Vermont, to meet at Montpelier, on the 15th of October. All the counties are requested to be well represented on the occasion.—The Board of Health have officially announced three cases of yellow fever in New Orleans.—J. H. Chaffin, aged 20 years, twenty-seven inches tall, and weighing only twenty-five pounds, is on exhibition in Boston—called the smallest man in the world.—A medical society has been organized at Hong Kong, in China, under the style and title of Medico-Chirurgical Society—the subscriptions for members being \$12 per annum.—At a recent meeting of the Medical Missionary Society in China, it was resolved that \$5,256 32, collected in the city of Boston, by Dr. Parker, when here, should be deposited till a communication could be had with the donors in regard to the disposal of it.—Dr. Papineau has been appointed to the chair of Botany in McGill College, Montreal, but will not commence the active duties of the department till May, 1846.—Dr. Elisha Huntington, Mayor of Lowell, was chosen president of the late Anti-Texas meeting, held in Middlesex Co., Mass.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The paper of "W." came too late for insertion in this week's Journal.

MARRIED.—In Boston, G. H. Lodge, M.D., to Miss M. E. Williams.—Dr. C. F. Earnard to Miss C. Mott.

DIED.—Wm. H. Richardson, M.D., late Professor of Obstetrics in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, recently died at Caneland, near Lexington, Ky. Professor Richardson stood at the head of his profession in Kentucky, in his particular department, and has been long and favorably known as one of the soundest and best teachers of his section of medical science in the country.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending Sept. 27, 47.—Males, 29; Females, 18. Stillborn, 4. Of consumption, 2—dysentery, 1—smallpox, 1—apoplexy, 1—jaundice, 1—disease of the bowels, 5—inflammation of the lungs, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—cholera infantum, 1—asthma, 1—sudden, 1—teething, 2—typhus fever, 3—canker, 2—hooping cough, 3—lung fever, 3—infantile, 4—old age, 2—paralysis, 1—delirium, 1—croup, 1—disease of the liver, 1—drowned, 1. Under 5 years, 25—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 60 years, 15—over 60 years, 4.

Yellow Fever observed in Paris.—The *Gazette des Hopitaux* for August, contains the account of a case of typhus which has recently occurred in the wards of M. Rayer, at the Charité, and which presented most of the symptoms peculiar to the yellow fever of tropical climates. It may also be compared to the fever recently observed in Scotland, and so admirably described by Dr. Cormack.

On the 30th of June, 1845, a man named Thomas, of strong constitution, entered M. Rayer's male ward. He had been ill for a few days only. The following were the symptoms presented:—Yellow orange tinge of the entire body; skin dry and hot; the eyes, and inferior surface of the tongue yellow; the superior surface of the tongue covered with a mucous fur; nausea; slight tympanitis of the abdomen, which is painful, on pressure, in the right hypochondrium; liver of normal size, on percussion; the stools colored by bile, not abundant; urine deeply tinged with bile; no abnormal thoracic symptom, but acute pain is felt in the hepatic region on deep inspiration. Pulse full, frequent, but regular. The patient only complains of pain in the right hypochondrium, and of intense cephalalgia. Venesection to twelve ounces. Blood presents a thick buff.

July 1st.—Same state. To be cupped on the hepatic region; blister on the same region. Saline purgative.

2nd.—Vomiting ceases; the matters vomited are black and sanguinolent. The stools, liquid and abundant, contain black blood and feces tinged with bile. The pulse is very frequent; cephalalgia; somnolence; tongue dry and cracked; teeth presenting a brownish crust at their basis; abdomen meteorized, not painful on pressure.

This state persisted on the 3d and 4th. On the 4th, slight delirium appeared. No spots or ecchymosis on the skin, universally of an orange yellow. On the 6th, the state of the patient seemed improved. A number of small conical elevations appeared on every part of the body, similar to those of variola in its first stage. On the 7th, these elevations had formed so many red ecchymotic spots, like those of hemorrhagic roseola. The patient appeared, indeed, better, although still in a state of semi-somnolence. On the 8th, the somnolence had increased; an eschar appeared on the sacrum; the stools were still sanguinolent. On the 11th, the eruption disappeared; somnolence and general depression increased; nausea, but no vomiting. On the 12th, he remained in a state of comatose sleep, and died suddenly on the 13th.

Autopsy twenty-eight hours after death.—The body is in a state of advanced putrefaction; the epidermis separating with the greatest ease: icteric tinge of the skin the same as during life; no effusion of blood in the intermuscular spaces; lungs healthy, but containing a considerable quantity of mucus and blood; heart soft, containing black blood; the mucous membrane of the stomach softened, of the color of dregs of wine; the duodenum presents traces of sanguineous effusion, and contains yellow bile; the rest of the intestines contain mucus colored with bile; Peyer's glands are not enlarged; no morbid alteration in the large intestine; the liver presents the usual volume; it is soft, of an uniform icteric tinge; the vena porta, vena cava, and its principal divisions, are healthy, and contain black fluid blood; the biliary vesicle contains a considerable quantity of blood; the spleen is soft, of normal volume; the kidneys soft, yellow, nearly diffuent; the brain soft, and presenting the icteric tinge.—*Jour. de Medecine.*